

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00089 041156Z

13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-02 NIC-01 EB-07 AID-05 /082 W

----- 060353

R 041100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1188

INFO USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0089

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL REACTION TO JAN 1 RIOTING

SUMMARY: GOE IS POLISHING ITS PUBLIC IMAGE FOLLOWING JAN 1 RIOTS, BUT REAL WEAPON AGAINST FURTHER VIOLENCE IS STERN WARNING BY MININT THAT VIOLENCE IS INTOLERABLE. GOE BLAMES "SABOTEURS" FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING RIOTS, HINTING UNMISTAKABLY THEY WERE MARXISTS. FURTHER PROTESTS AGAINST LOW WAGES AND HIGH PRICES ARE TO BE EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. END SUMMARY

1. GOE IS FOSTERING PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF "IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS" (READ MARXISTS) RESPONSIBLE FOR CAIRO AND HELWAN RIOTING JAN 1.

2. IN REMARKS TO GROUP OF SCIENTISTS BANNERED BY ALL PAPERS JAN 3. PRESIDENT SADAT UNDERScored HIS LOVE OF FREEDOM, BUT POINTED OUT FREEDOM INVOLVES RESPONSIBILITIES, IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO ANARCHY, AND MUST BE EXERCISED THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 00089 041156Z

3. AT JOINT MEETING OF THREE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CALLED JAN 2 BY SPEAKER MAR'I BOTH PRIMIN AND MININT STRESSED RULE OF LAW IS SUPREME AND THAT RIOTS WERE PLANNED BY SABOTEURS SEEKING EXPLOIT PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS. COMMITTEES' STATEMENT STRESSED THAT THOSE WHO "PLANNED" DEMONSTRATIONS SERVE ONLY ENEMY'S INTEREST AND SHOULD BE EXPOSED BY THE CITIZENS AS WELL AS THE AUTHORITIES. BOTH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND ASU COUNCIL WILL CONVENE IN SPECIAL SESSIONS JAN 6 TO DISCUSS NEED TO "SOLVE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS".

4. PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS FORMALLY ORDERED DETENTION OF THOSE ARRESTED NEW YEAR'S DAY ON CHARGES OF RESISTING AUTHORITIES AND "PREMEDITATED SABOTAGE" OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY. MINJUSTICE OFFICIAL HAS ANNOUNCED MOST OF DETAINEES ARE WORKERS.

5. ALL EDITORIALISTS JAN 3 CONDEMN RIOTERS. MUSA SABRI IN AKHBAR WRITES THAT PROVOCATEURS WERE SAME AS THOSE (READ COMMUNISTS) WHO PREVIOUSLY TRIED TO EXPLOIT NASSERISM TO COVER REAL AIMS. (COMMENT: PREVALENT SLOGAN YESTERDAY AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY WAS: "NASSER ADVISED SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS." WE HAVE UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT THAT THERE WAS ALSO SIGN READING "ONLY COMMUNISM WILL SUCCEED".) SABRI WARNS POINTEDLY THAT EGYPTIANS ARE WILLING TO LIVE ON LIMITED QUANTITIES OF SUGAR, TEA, AND CHEESE PROVIDED EVERYBODY, INCLUDING MINISTERS, SHARES IN SAVRIFICES.

6. MEANWHILE, GOE DOES SEEM TO BE REFURBISHING PUBLIC IMAGE. ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT'S NEW EXECUTIVE BOEING 707 WAS NOTED BY PRESS ONLY IN CONTEXT THAT EGYPT AIR HAS ACQUIRED NEW 707. GOE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY INDIVIDUAL DOLE OF FREE TEA WILL BE INCREASED FROM 25 TO 40 GRAMS MONTHLY IN CAIRO AND GIZA. FINALLY, GOE IS TAKING SECOND LOOK AT DRAFT EMPLOYMENT REFORM LAW, WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDES SUCH UNPOPULAR INNOVATIONS AS PROMOTION BY MERIT INSTEAD OF SENIORITY, AND IS CONSEQUENTLY IRRITATING LABOR OFFICIALS. MAR'I JAN 2 DISCUSSED BILL WITH EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR GROUP, AND PROMISED PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT ACT IN ANY INSTANCE WITHOUT SOUNDING PUBLIC DESIRES. SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE NOW FORMED TO DISCUSS LABOR MATTERS WITH EFL.

7. HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS NEW SENSITIVITY TO PR AND PROMISES TO CONSULT THE PEOPLE ON MAJOR LEGISLATION, GOE'S MAJOR DETERRANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 00089 041156Z

TO FURTHER TROUBLE IS FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT BY MININT THAT VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. STUDENT RALLIES AT AIN SHAMS AND CAIRO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES YESTERDAY WERE NOISY, BUT, CONTRARY TO "PRESS REPORTS" CITED IN JAN 2 WIRELESS FILE, WERE NOT "DEMONSTRATIONS". SOME HUNDREDS ATTENDED VARIOUS CAMPUS MEETINGS TO PROTEST ARREST OF STUDENTS AND HIGH PRICES (ESPECIALLY FOR MEAT AND SHOES); SUCH RALLIES ARE PERMANENT FEATURE OF COLLEGE LIFE HERE. MORNING OF JAN 4, CAIRO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

GATHERED IN GROUPS BETWEEN CLASSES, SHOUTING  
"FREEDOM, FREEDOM," BUT ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD NATURED;  
DEAN OF FACULTY TOLD EMBOFF STUDENTS SIMPLY LETTING OFF  
STEAM AND HE WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING REQUEST FOR POLICE  
ASSISTANCE.

8. COMMENT: STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD CAMPUS RALLIES TO  
PROTEST DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION AND AFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH  
WORKERS. WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT SUGGESTS ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN  
OF PROTEST IS SLATED TO BEGIN JAN 4 AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY, BUT BY NOON,  
THIS HAD NOT MATERIALIZED. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER,  
THAT GOE INTENDS TO CLAMP DOWN HARD AT FIRST SIGN OF VIOLENCE.  
IF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS CANNOT CONTROL SITUATION, POLICE  
WILL MOVE IN, AND WILL NOT HESITATE ENTER CAMPUSES IF  
NECESSARY.  
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CAIRO00089  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750004-0602  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750178/aaaacqhm.tel  
**Line Count:** 131  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL REACTION TO JAN 1 RIOTING SUMMARY: GOE IS POLISHING ITS PUBLIC IMAGE FOLLOWING JAN 1 RIOTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PORS, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006